

to make crystal-clear for the ordinary person reading the law what conduct is made criminal and what conduct is allowable. There cannot be words which are ambiguous. By that I mean, more than one meaning could be derived by reading those words. My amendment attempts to make specific the conduct, excuse me, the conduct which is to be prohibited, so that a person will not inadvertently do something which constitutes a crime. If a supposed criminal statute is not clear, it will be struck down as being vague and overbroad. What I am having sent around to you right now is a copy of an article and it points out where two young Russian soldiers turned their automatic weapons on some older Russian soldiers who had, in the words of the article, brutally hazed them. Not only did they kill several of their fellow soldiers, when a helicopter buzzed the barracks to try to get them to surrender, they opened fire on the helicopter. They struck it. The helicopter broke into flames, but from the article, it was landed safely. Hazing does not occur only on college campuses. This article is designed to show how serious this type of conduct is, how devastating it can be, not only in terms of actual physical or psychological damage that can be done to the victim, but what it might push the victim to do by way of a response. Had there not been the hazing directed toward these young soldiers, there would be, I think maybe six people, according to the article, were killed, there would be a half dozen more people alive than are today, and a half dozen fewer who had met with a violent end. Recently on the campus of Nebraska, a young man was victimized by hazing and wound up in a coma. This type of activity on college campuses is not new. It has been condemned, criticized, and deplored down through the years. Senator Matzke decided that the time has arrived in Nebraska to do something about this by way of legislation. So what the bill does that was offered is to give a definition of hazing, to describe the kind of conduct which is prohibited. I wanted to give that little overview so that it is clear what it is that is being discussed, and for the sake of the record, I am going to read my amendment, because reading it will get the idea before you more quickly than if I tried to say it in other words. This would be the language of the bill based on the amendment that I am offering, and some parts of the bill I am not touching: A person commits the offense of hazing when (a) he or she intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which injures or which he or she knows or should know creates a substantial risk of physical or mental injury to another person when such conduct is for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or continued